

Interesting facts - did you know:

- **Daniel Defoe** was a resident for a brief period around 1710 staying in Hillgate with one Joseph Button, a book-seller with a shop on the old Tyne Bridge.
- In 1068 a battle took place on Gateshead Fell, where **William the Conqueror** defeated Edgar the Atheling and his allies, including Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland.
- In February 1745, **John Wesley**, the famous Methodist Leader was travelling north to Tynesdie when he lost his way in a snowstorm on the Fell. He later commented 'Many a rough journey have I had before, but one like this I never had'.
- **Wrekenton** or Wreckington, was named by the Rev. John Hodgson after the Roman road called the Wrekendyke which passed to the south of the village.
- **Carr Hill** was once a small village isolated from Gateshead.
- Gateshead was a railway town with workshops employing 3,300 men in 1909, but the **first engine** was seen in Gateshead more than one hundred years before this. John Winfield, who had a foundry in Pipewellgate, became an agent for Richard Trevethick's railway engine and by May 1805 a prototype was built in the town. It was never used out side, its only movements were on a short track within the factory.
- Joseph Wilson Swan, who invented the carbon filament **electric light bulb**, which was the ancestor of our present bulbs, lived at Underhill on Kells Lane in Gateshead which was the first house in the world to be lit by electricity.
- Hawks Crawshay and Co were the Contractors for the **High Level Bridge** providing the iron and steel.
- In the 1860's Robert Sterling Newall commissioned Thomas Cooke to build a telescope for his private observatory at **Ferndene**. The 25 inch refracting telescope that resulted was the largest in the world for many years and had a tube nearly 30ft in length.
- At one time outside St Edmund's was a stone cross in the roadway; this marked the head of the town and was the scene in 1594 of the **execution** of John Ingram, a young Jesuit priest.